

CLAIMS

Sub A 1. A process for the simultaneous storage and play back of multimedia data, comprising the steps of:

5 accepting television (TV) broadcast signals, wherein said TV signals are based on a multitude of standards, including, but not limited to, National Television Standards Committee (NTSC) broadcast, PAL broadcast, satellite transmission, DSS, DBS, or ATSC;

10 tuning said TV signals to a specific program;

providing at least one Input Section, wherein said input section converts said specific program to an Moving Pictures Experts Group (MPEG) formatted stream for internal transfer and manipulation;

15 providing a Media Switch, wherein said Media Switch parses said MPEG stream, said MPEG stream is separated into its video and audio components;

storing said video and audio components on a storage device;

providing at least one Output Section, wherein said Output Section extracts said video and audio components from a storage device;

20 wherein said Output Section assembles said video and audio components into an MPEG stream;

wherein said Output Section sends said MPEG stream to a decoder;

wherein said decoder converts said MPEG stream into TV output signals;

wherein said decoder delivers said TV output signals to a TV receiver; and

25 accepting control commands from a user, wherein said control commands are sent through the system and affect the flow of said MPEG stream.

2. The process of claim 1, wherein said Input Section directs said MPEG stream to the destination indicated by said control commands.

3. The process of claim 1, wherein said Output Section extracts said video and audio components from the storage device indicated by said control commands.

5 4. The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
creating custom video output sequences, wherein said sequences are specified by a user or program control.

10 5. The process of claim 1, wherein the storing and extracting of said video and audio components from said storage device are performed simultaneously.

6. The process of claim 1, wherein said Media Switch calculates and logically associates a time stamp to said video and audio components.

15 7. The process of claim 1, wherein said Media Switch extracts time stamp values from a digital TV stream and logically associates said time stamp values to said video and audio components.

20 8. The process of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
placing said video component into a circular video buffer;
posting an event in a circular event buffer, wherein said event contains an indication that a video component was found and the location of said video component in said circular video buffer; and
sending notice of said event posting.

25 9. The process of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
placing said audio component into a circular audio buffer;

posting an event in a circular event buffer, wherein said event contains an indication that an audio component was found and the location of said audio component in said circular audio buffer; and
sending notice of said event posting.

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10. The process of claims 8 or 9, further comprising the steps of:
receiving said notice;
retrieving said event posting from said event buffer; and
indexing into the appropriate buffer indicated by the type and location
information in said event buffer.

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11. The process of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:
generating a buffer containing the logical audio or video segments in order, including ancillary information, wherein each of said logical segments points to the appropriate circular buffer location where corresponding audio or video components have been placed.

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12. The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
increasing the decoder system clock rate for fast playback or fast reverse playback.

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13. The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
decreasing the decoder system clock rate for slow playback or slow reverse playback.

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14. The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
combining system audio cues and on-screen displays with said TV output signals.

15. The process of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
decoding the Vertical Blanking Interval (VBI) data or private data channel
information from said TV signal; and
examining said data to determine the starting or ending indicators of a
specific program.

16. The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
scanning the words contained within the closed caption (CC) fields to
determine program starting and ending times, wherein particular words or
phrases are used to trigger the recording of a specific program and wherein the
CC information is preserved in time synchronization with the audio and video,
and can be correctly presented to the viewer when the stream is displayed.

17. The process of claim 16, further comprising the step of:
performing a specific action when a specific word is found in said CC
information.

18. The process of claim 1, wherein said Media Switch has a data bus
connecting it to a CPU and DRAM.

19. The process of claim 1, wherein said Media Switch shares an address bus
with a CPU and DRAM.

20. The process of claim 1, wherein said Media Switch operates
asynchronously and autonomously with a CPU.

21. The process of claim 1, wherein a storage device is connected to said
Media Switch.

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22. The process of claim 1, wherein said Media Switch allows the CPU to queue up Direct Memory Access (DMA) transfers.

23. The process of claim 1, wherein said Media Switch is implemented in hardware.

24. The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
providing a multimedia recording device, including, but not limited to, a Video Cassette Recorder (VCR) or a Digital Video Disk-Random Access Memory (DVD-RAM) device, wherein said recording device is attached to the output side of said decoder, allowing said user to record said TV output signals.

25. The process of claim 24, wherein said user queues up programs from said disk to be stored on said recording device.

26. The process of claim 24, wherein said user sets time schedules for said programs to be sent to said recording device.

27. The process of claim 24, wherein title pages may be sent to said recording device before sending a program to be stored on said recording device.

28. The process of claim 24, wherein a program that is longer in duration than a magnetic tape in said recording device allows, is sped up to fit within the desired time limit.

29. The process of claim 24, wherein a program that is longer in duration than a magnetic tape in said recording device allows, has frames dropped from it to fit within the desired time limit.

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Sub A 30. The process of claim 24, wherein the output of said recording device is routed to said input section, allowing said recording device to act as a storage back up system, said recording device accepts overflow storage, TV programs, software updates, or other data that are later retrieved and sent to said input section.

31. A process for the simultaneous storage and play back of multimedia data, comprising the steps of:

providing a physical data source, wherein said physical data source accepts broadcast data from an input device, parses video and audio data from said broadcast data, and temporarily stores said video and audio data;

providing a source object, wherein said source object extracts video and audio data from said physical data source;

providing a transform object, wherein said transform object stores and retrieves data streams onto a storage device;

wherein said source object obtains a buffer from said transform object, said source object converts video data into data streams and fills said buffer with said streams;

wherein said source object is automatically flow controlled by said transform object;

providing a sink object, wherein said sink object obtains data stream buffers from said transform object and outputs said streams to a video and audio decoder;

wherein said decoder converts said streams into display signals and sends said signals to a display;

wherein said sink object is automatically flow controlled by said transform object;

providing a control object, wherein said control object receives commands from a user, said commands control the flow of the broadcast data through the system; and

wherein said control object sends flow command events to said source, transform, and sink objects.

5 32. An apparatus for the simultaneous storage and play back of multimedia data, comprising:

10 a module for accepting television (TV) broadcast signals, wherein said TV signals are based on a multitude of standards, including, but not limited to, National Television Standards Committee (NTSC) broadcast, PAL broadcast, satellite transmission, DSS, DBS, or ATSC;

a module for tuning said TV signals to a specific program;

15 at least one Input Section, wherein said input section converts said specific program to an Moving Pictures Experts Group (MPEG) formatted stream for internal transfer and manipulation;

a Media Switch, wherein said Media Switch parses said MPEG stream, said MPEG stream is separated into its video and audio components;

20 a module for storing said video and audio components on a storage device;

at least one Output Section, wherein said Output Section extracts said video and audio components from a storage device;

wherein said Output Section assembles said video and audio components into an MPEG stream;

25 wherein said Output Section sends said MPEG stream to a decoder;

wherein said decoder converts said MPEG stream into TV output signals;

wherein said decoder delivers said TV output signals to a TV receiver; and

accepting control commands from a user, wherein said control commands are sent through the system and affect the flow of said MPEG stream.

33. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein said Input Section directs said MPEG stream to the destination indicated by said control commands.

5 34. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein said Output Section extracts said video and audio components from the storage device indicated by said control commands.

35. The apparatus of claim 32, further comprising:
10 a module for creating custom video output sequences, wherein said sequences are specified by a user or program control.

36. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the storing and extracting of said video and audio components from said storage device are performed simultaneously.
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37. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein said Media Switch calculates and logically associates a time stamp to said video and audio components.

38. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein said Media Switch extracts time stamp values from a digital TV stream and logically associates said time stamp values to said video and audio components.
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39. The apparatus of claim 32, further comprising:
a module for placing said video component into a circular video buffer;
25 a module for posting an event in a circular event buffer, wherein said event contains an indication that a video component was found and the location of said video component in said circular video buffer; and
a module for sending notice of said event posting.

40. The apparatus of claim 32, further comprising:
a module for placing said audio component into a circular audio buffer;
a module for posting an event in a circular event buffer, wherein said event
contains an indication that an audio component was found and the location of
said audio component in said circular audio buffer; and
a module for sending notice of said event posting.

41. The apparatus of claims 39 or 40, further comprising:
a module for receiving said notice;
a module for retrieving said event posting from said event buffer; and
a module for indexing into the appropriate buffer indicated by the type and
location information in said event buffer.

42. The apparatus of claim 41, further comprising:
a module for generating a buffer containing the logical audio or video
segments in order, including ancillary information, wherein each of said logical
segments points to the appropriate circular buffer location where corresponding
audio or video components have been placed.

43. The apparatus of claim 32, further comprising:
a module for increasing the decoder system clock rate for fast playback or
fast reverse playback.

44. The apparatus of claim 32, further comprising:
a module for decreasing the decoder system clock rate for slow playback
or slow reverse playback.

45. The apparatus of claim 32, further comprising:
a module for combining system audio cues and on-screen displays with
said TV output signals.

5 46. The apparatus of claim 32, further comprising:
a module for decoding the Vertical Blanking Interval (VBI) data or private
data channel information from said TV signal; and
a module for examining said data to determine the starting or ending
indicators of a specific program.

10 47. The apparatus of claim 32, further comprising:
a module for scanning the words contained within the closed caption (CC)
fields to determine program starting and ending times, wherein particular words
or phrases are used to trigger the recording of a specific program and wherein
15 the CC information is preserved in time synchronization with the audio and
video, and can be correctly presented to the viewer when the stream is
displayed.

20 48. The apparatus of claim 47, further comprising:
a module for performing a specific action when a specific word is found in
said CC information.

25 49. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein said Media Switch has a data bus
connecting it to a CPU and DRAM.

50. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein said Media Switch shares an address
bus with a CPU and DRAM.

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51. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein said Media Switch operates asynchronously and autonomously with a CPU.

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5 52. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein a storage device is connected to said Media Switch.

53. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein said Media Switch allows the CPU to queue up Direct Memory Access (DMA) transfers.

10 54. The apparatus of claim 32, further comprising:
a multimedia recording device, including, but not limited to, a Video Cassette Recorder (VCR) or a Digital Video Disk-Random Access Memory (DVD-RAM) device, wherein said recording device is attached to the output side of said decoder, allowing said user to record said TV output signals.

15 Sub A7 55. The apparatus of claim 54, wherein said user queues up programs from said disk to be stored on said recording device.

20 56. The apparatus of claim 54, wherein said user sets time schedules for said programs to be sent to said recording device.

57. The apparatus of claim 54, wherein title pages may be sent to said recording device before sending a program to be stored on said recording device.

25 58. The apparatus of claim 54, wherein a program that is longer in duration than a magnetic tape in said recording device allows, is sped up to fit within the desired time limit.

59. The apparatus of claim 54, wherein a program that is longer in duration than a magnetic tape in said recording device allows, has frames dropped from it to fit within the desired time limit.

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60. The apparatus of claim 54, wherein the output of said recording device is routed to said input section, allowing said recording device to act as a storage back up system, said recording device accepts overflow storage, TV programs, software updates, or other data that are later retrieved and sent to said input section.

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61. An apparatus for the simultaneous storage and play back of multimedia data, comprising:

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a physical data source, wherein said physical data source accepts broadcast data from an input device, parses video and audio data from said broadcast data, and temporarily stores said video and audio data;

a source object, wherein said source object extracts video and audio data from said physical data source;

a transform object, wherein said transform object stores and retrieves data streams onto a storage device;

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wherein said source object obtains a buffer from said transform object, said source object converts video data into data streams and fills said buffer with said streams;

wherein said source object is automatically flow controlled by said transform object;

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a sink object, wherein said sink object obtains data stream buffers from said transform object and outputs said streams to a video and audio decoder;

wherein said decoder converts said streams into display signals and sends said signals to a display;

wherein said sink object is automatically flow controlled by said transform object;

a control object, wherein said control object receives commands from a user, said commands control the flow of the broadcast data through the system;

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wherein said control object sends flow command events to said source, transform, and sink objects.

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